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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9290
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0242
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0095
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3969
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2239
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0310
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0915
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1009
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000251

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EU](#) [CU](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON ADVANCING THE
U.S. POSITION FOR CHANGE IN CUBA

REF: A. STATE 18317

[1](#)B. 06 TASHKENT 500

Classified By: POLOFF R. FITZMAURICE FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) DCM delivered ref A demarche, including pitch to release all Cuban political prisoners, to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Acting Chief of U.S. Affairs and Countries of America Department Takhir Mamadjanov on February 26. Mamadjanov did not provide a substantive response, but noted that he would share the information with the relevant parts of his government, which would carefully consider the U.S. position.

[1](#)2. (C) DCM asked Mamadjanov whether Uzbekistan has an Ambassador accredited to handle relations with the Cuban government. Mamadjanov responded that diplomatic relations with Cuba had only been recently established after a visit by a Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister to Tashkent in March 2006 (ref B). He noted that the development of relations between the two countries was still at an early phase, and for this reason, no specific Uzbek Embassy or Ambassador has been tasked yet with handling Uzbek-Cuban relations. Mamadjanov stated that his government has held consultations with the Cuban government within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly.

[1](#)3. (C) Mamadjanov inquired whether the stepping down of President Fidel Castro could result in a lifting of the U.S. embargo against Cuba. In reply, DCM noted President Bush's recent statement, made during a visit to Africa, that the U.S. had no plans to lift the embargo against Cuba.

[1](#)4. (C) Comment: Uzbekistan has only a minimal diplomatic relationship with Cuba, but we thought it important to make this demarche so our Uzbek interlocutors will see that the US government raises human rights issues around the world, not just with the GOU. See septel for Ambassador's and DCM's simultaneous approaches to the GOU on a list of 23 Uzbek prisoners of concern.

NORLAND